



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2010

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NEW PROBATION PROGRAM AIMS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM OF HIGH RISK YOUTH

Some of the highest risk youth detained by the San Diego County Probation Department will begin a new program aimed at reducing their likelihood of committing a new crime.

The "Transitions" program begins March 1, targeting 16-to-18 year old boys sentenced to serve a maximum of 365 days at Camp Barrett in Alpine. The program focuses on three elements: an initial needs/risk assessment; a case plan that provides a roadmap for the juvenile to become a productive member of society; and intensive community supervision.

"With shrinking budgets it's important that we implement programs that have proven to be effective at reducing recidivism," said Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins. "This re-entry program bridges the youth's transition from incarceration to community living."

Staff will assess the incoming youth's needs and risks. A written case plan will map out how the youth will successfully complete the Transitions program, from incarceration at Camp Barrett through re-entry into the community, and probation termination. The process will be overseen by a casework probation officer who will meet with the youth every month at Camp Barrett and continue supervising the youth in the community. This process will promote trust and increase accountability, vital to the rehabilitation process.

Services will include substance abuse and teen relationship violence education, work readiness, life-skills training, social tolerance, and Regional Occupational Program classes including horticulture, culinary arts, and fire science among others.

Once the youth is released into the community, the casework probation officer will keep the youth on the road to recovery using rewards and sanctions when appropriate.

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